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UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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09/19/82

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R 091935Z SEP 82
FM USIA WASHDC
TO RUEHQA/AMEMBOSY PESHAWAR 1738
RUHQ/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUEHQA/AMEMBOSY ISLAMABAD 1722

BT
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USIA 59937

USIA

FOR PAO/CAO

STATE FOR NEA/PAB

EO 12355 N/A

SUBJECT: FY 82 IV GROUP "PRESS AND INFORMATION" - WRAP-UP
SUMMARY:

AN EVALUATION SESSION WAS HELD WITH SUBJECT GROUP FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2. THE GROUP WAS PLEASED WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE, PICKED UP SOME PROFESSIONAL TIPS, HAD MANY GOOD DISCUSSIONS, ENJOYED IMMENSELY THEIR VISITS TO ESTES NATIONAL PARK AND TO KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT. THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT ONLY A FEW INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES APPEARED. A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT FOLLOWS.

RETURN TRAVEL IS AS FOLLOWS: MEHROZ SHAH, MOJADEDI AND GHARWAL LEAVE SEPT. 5 ON TWA 704 TO LONDON; SEPT. 6 LONDON TO ISLAMABAD ON PIA 702; SEPT. 7 ISLAMABAD TO PESHAWAR PIA 638 ARRIVING 4:55 P.M. MR. BAGIR LEAVES SEPT. 10 ON TWA 704 TO LONDON; SEPT. 11 LONDON TO ISLAMABAD; SEPT. 12 ISLAMABAD TO PESHAWAR. MR. MATTEEN LEAVES SEPT. 24 ON TWA 704; SEPT. 25 TO ISLAMABAD; SEPT. 26 TO PESHAWAR. MR. AGSIL WILL BE VISITING IN LOS ANGELES FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BUT WILL LEAVE SEPT. 26 FROM LOS ANGELES. WILL LEAVE WASHINGTON SEPT. 30 ON TWA 704 TO LONDON; LEAVE LONDON OCT. 1 ON PIA FOR ISLAMABAD; LEAVE ISLAMABAD OCT. 2 ON PIA 634 FOR PESHAWAR.

DURING THE EVALUATION SESSION MR. SHAH, SPEAKING FOR THE GROUP, SAID THEIR AIM HAD BEEN 1) TO LEARN IN THEIR FIELD OF PRESS AND INFORMATION HOW TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS SO AS TO PRODUCE MATERIAL ACCEPTABLE TO WESTERN STANDARDS AND 2) TO LET AMERICANS KNOW ABOUT AFGHANISTAN AND TO REMOVE FALSE IMPRESSIONS FOSTERED BY RUSSIA. SINCE GORBACHEV'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER, HE SAID, THE WAR HAS INTENSIFIED. HE AND OTHERS FELT THAT RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA IS VERY STRONG. THE GROUP SAID THEY ALSO TRIED TO ASSURE AMERICANS THAT AFGHANS ARE NOT PRO-KHOMEINI, THAT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN ARE "COMPLETELY PRESERVED" IN THE CONTEXT OF AFGHAN CULTURE AND ISLAM, WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE WEST. THEY NOTED THAT MOST AMERICANS ARE SKEPTICAL OF NEWS REPORTED BY THE MUJAHEDDIN BUT PROTESTED THAT THEY COVER THE WAR AS REALISTICALLY AS POSSIBLE.

IN WASHINGTON THEY MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THEIR MEETING WITH BILL MONROE, EDITOR OF THE WASHINGTON JOURNALISM REVIEW, WITH WHOM THEY WERE VERY IMPRESSED; DID NOT WANT THE MEETING TO END. THEY LEARNED A LOT FROM MEETINGS ON CAPITOL HILL WITH SENATOR GORDON HUMPHREY AND FRIENDS ABOUT THE ATTITUDES OF VARIOUS SENATORS. THE MEETING WITH THE "WASHINGTON POST" WAS CANCELLED MUCH TO THE GROUP'S DELIGHT. THEY CONTENDED THAT THE "POST" IS BIASED AND MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY AN

INTERVIEW BY A "POST" WRITER WITH THE DAUGHTER OF THE P.B.I. REGIME PRIME MINISTER WHICH THEY REQUESTED AS FULL OF LIES BUT WHICH THE "POST" PRINTED. THEY COMPARED THE "POST" TO "PRAVDA" AS A NEWSPAPER THAT PRINTED ONLY ITS OWN LINE. THEY ENJOYED TALKING WITH GEORGE KRIMLEY AT THE CENTER FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND WILL SEEK ASSISTANCE WITH HIS HELP FOR THEIR OPERATION IN PESHAWAR.

THEY WERE NOT IMPRESSED WITH THE PERSON WHO TALKED WITH THEM AT THE "BOSTON GLOBE" WHO, THEY SAID, DID NOT KNOW WHERE THE (FORMER AFGHAN) KING WAS BUT THOUGHT HE KNEW WHEN HE SHOULD RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN. THEY NOTED THAT NOTHING OF THEIR VISIT APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER. THEY DID LEARN A LOT ABOUT THE PRESS, THE USE OF ROBOTS, COMPUTERS AND THE HISTORY OF THE "GLOBE". THEY WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH DEAN MATRE OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND HAD A VERY PRODUCTIVE MEETING. THEY ALSO MET THE EDITOR OF "WORLD PAPER" WHICH IS PREPARED AS AN INSERT ON WORLD NEWS FOR OTHER NEWSPAPERS. THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR WAS CANCELLED BY THE GROUP TO PERMIT A PERIOD OF MOURNING OVER PRESIDENT ZIA'S DEATH.

IN DENVER THEY MET AFGHANS LIVING THERE AND HAD A HAPPY EXPERIENCE WITH THEM AND OTHER MUSLEMS AT THE ISLAMIC CENTER. THEY MET WITH BOTH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN
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Part II

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CAMPAIGNS AND HEARD HOW THE TWO WERE TRYING TO WIN. THEY HAD A WONDERFUL MEETING WITH PROFESSOR MAWJAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER. THEY FELT HE HAD AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF INFORMATION TO SHARE AND THAT HE ASKED VERY INTERESTING QUESTIONS. HE RECENTLY WAS ON A U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET UNION AND AGREED WITH THEIR VIEWS ON THE RIGHTS SITUATION THERE. THEY HAD A GOOD SESSION WITH BOB TERPELL, SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM WHO TOLD THEM THAT WHILE IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO WRITE PROPAGANDA FOR A WHILE, IT LATER IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO WRITE TRUTH. THEY WERE ALSO ON AN HOUR-LONG LIVE TALK SHOW.

A HIGH POINT OF THE TRIP WAS THE VISIT TO ESTES PARK. TO THEM IT WAS LIKE AFGHANISTAN - THE MOUNTAINS, SNOW AND COMPLETELY SELFLESS PEOPLE.

IN NEW YORK THE GROUP HAD VERY POSITIVE DISCUSSIONS AT FREEDOM HOUSE, WITH LEONARD SUSSMAN AND ROSANNE KLASS, MR. SHAN WAS ASKED TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ON WHY THE MUJAHEDDIN REJECT THE GENEVA ACCORDS, WHICH MR. SUSSMAN PROMISED TO DISTRIBUTE. THEY HAD A VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION WHICH THEY TERMED "POSITIVE CRITICISM" WITH REGARD TO THEIR WRITING, I.E., "HOW TO CONVINCE THE WESTERN READER". (FOR EXAMPLE: "BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR ADJECTIVES".) THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED NOT TO HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE "NEW YORK TIMES" OR CBS. THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED, THEY SAID, IN JUST SEEING THE MACHINERY. THEY HAD A "GOOD AND USEFUL" MEETING AT THE "WALL STREET JOURNAL" WITH GEORGE MALONE WHO, THEY SAID, LISTENED KEENLY, AND ASKED THEM ABOUT HOW THE DEATH OF ZIA WOULD AFFECT THE MUJAHEDDIN.

NEXT STOP WAS KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT. THEY WERE PLEASED THAT THE "BRATTLEBORO REFORMER" FEATURED THEM ON THE FRONT PAGE WITH A PHOTO AND LENGTHY ARTICLE TITLED "AFGHAN VISITORS DISTRUST SOVIETS". THE EDITOR HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM HIS VIEWS ON GORBACHEV'S REFORMS. THEY HAD WONDERFUL HOSPITALITY IN KEENE AND BRATTLEBORO ARRANGED BY THE EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RESPECTIVE NEWSPAPERS.

IN GENERAL THEY SAID THEY FOUND AMERICANS OPEN-HEARTED, OPEN-MINDED AND INTERESTED. THEY NOTED ON THE PART OF AMERICANS A DEEP RESPECT FOR THE LAW - THAT THEY DID NOT INTERFERE IN OTHERS' AFFAIRS; THAT THEY ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AFGHANISTAN; THAT THE PEOPLE ARE STRAIGHT FORWARD AND DIGNIFIED.

THE SESSION ENDED WITH A POEM BY MR. CHAPMAN AND GREAT APPRECIATION EXPRESSED FOR THEIR ESCORTS AND FOR THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE VISIT.

ALL CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS A VERY USEFUL TRIP AND THAT THE PROGRAM ARRANGED BY DELPHI RESEARCH ASSOCIATES HAD BEEN SUPERB.

THE GROUP ORGANIZED THEMSELVES VERY WELL FOR THE EVALUATION, EACH PERSON DISCUSSING ONE CITY. THROUGHOUT THE VISIT THEY MAINTAINED A POSITION OF UNITY. FROM THE ESCORTS WE UNDERSTAND THAT MR. SALEEM DOMINATED WHILE HE WAS WITH THEM. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP DID NOT KNOW WHY HE HAD LEFT A WEEK EARLY. (E/VGN)

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